

Claims

1. A drive unit including  
an electric motor (1),  
a drive unit casing (2) accommodating therein the electric  
motor,  
an inverter (3) that controls the electric motor, and  
a flow passage (4) of a refrigerant that cools the inverter,  
the drive unit characterized in that the inverter is mounted  
on the drive unit casing such that a heat sink (53) united with  
a substrate of the inverter defines a space (R) on a portion  
thereof opposed to the drive unit casing,  
the space is communicated to the flow passage of the  
refrigerant,  
the heat sink comprises heat-sink side fins (56) extending  
into the space toward the drive unit casing, and  
the heat-sink side fins and the drive unit casing contact  
with each other in a state of low thermal conduction.
2. A drive unit including  
an electric motor,  
a drive unit casing accommodating therein the electric  
motor,  
an inverter that controls the electric motor, and  
a flow passage of a refrigerant that cools the inverter,  
the drive unit characterized in that the inverter is mounted  
on the drive unit casing such that a heat sink united with a

substrate of the inverter defines a space on a portion thereof opposed to the drive unit casing,

the space is communicated to the flow passage of the refrigerant,

the heat sink comprises heat-sink side fins extending into the space toward the drive unit casing,

separation means (6) for preventing thermal conduction is provided in the space, and

both the heat-sink side fins and the drive unit casing contact directly with the separation means.

3. The drive unit according to claim 2, wherein the separation means comprises a low thermal conductive member (61).

4. The drive unit according to claim 2, wherein the separation means comprises a plurality of separation members (60) with a space (R3) therebetween.

5. The drive unit according to claim 2, wherein the separation means comprises a laminated member formed by laminating a low thermal conductive member on a separation member.

6. The drive unit according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the drive unit casing comprises drive-unit-casing side fins (22) extending into the space toward the heat sink.

7. The drive unit according to claim 6, wherein the space is compartmented by the separation means into a first chamber (R1) facing toward the heat sink and a second chamber (R2) facing

toward the drive unit casing.

8. The drive unit according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the inverter is received in an inverter casing (5) composed of a member separate from the inverter with a substrate thereof fixed to a bottom wall of the inverter casing and constitutes a heat sink, of which a substrate is united with the bottom wall of the inverter casing.

9. The drive unit according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the inverter together with the heat sink (33) that is united with a substrate thereof are received in an inverter casing composed of a member separate from the inverter.

10. The drive unit according to claim 7, wherein the heat-sink side fins and the drive-unit-casing side fins cooperatively generate a common refrigerant flow pattern within the space.

11. The drive unit according to any one of claims 3, 6, 8 to 10, wherein the low thermal conductive member is shaped to follow contact portions of the heat-sink side fins and the drive-unit-casing side fins.